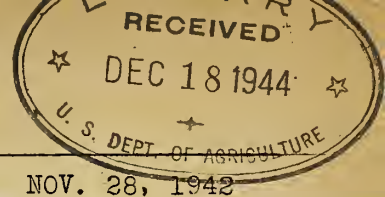


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Administration



NO. 44

"AMA "WAR BOARD" Letter Wash. D. C.

NOV. 28, 1942

FEEDING OF OCCUPIED AREAS already is underway, with shipments of food by AMA to North Africa. AMA is represented in conferences considering problem of feeding countries freed from Axis aggression. More on this later.

FIELD PURCHASE PROGRAMS: Dropping off. Purchases during past week (Nov. 20-25) were as follows: Cabbage, New York, 973.5 tons, US No. 1 grade at \$15 per ton; Squash, Massachusetts, 159-1/3 tons, AMA grade, at \$12 per ton. Pineapples Puerto Rico, 6568 crates, US No. 2 at \$1.75 per crate.

Apples: Connecticut, 13911 bu., Maine, 5581 bus., Massachusetts, 28522 bu., New Hampshire, 10307 bu., New York, 1078 bu., Ohio, 17145 bu., Utah, 4620 bu. All purchases made at \$1.25 per bushel. Total purchases to date (Nov. 25) amount to 2,235,183 bu.

Sweetpotatoes: Maryland, 8400 bu. and 185 bbls., Virginia, 20936 bu. and 5365 bbls. Purchases made at \$.90 per bu. and \$2.40 per bbl. All US No. 1 grade.

SOUTHERN EGG MARKETING PROGRAM for coming winter and spring flush production period expected to be announced soon. Will be similar to plan operated last year. Qualified dealers acting as agents for AMA will purchase at announced prices in 10 case lots from producers, producer groups, small dealers and storekeepers. Present plan is to operate program in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Any public warehousemen or dealers having facilities for candling, grading, handling and storing may make application to buy for AMA. All purchases are to be made on basis official US standards or "current receipts" as vendors choose. Prices at which eggs will be bought will be posted conspicuously in all buying stations. Federal-State inspectors will be available at buying stations to grade eggs. To encourage local consumption, AMA will accept only those eggs for which no market can be found in ordinary retail or wholesale channels. For all eggs bought by AMA, contractors will be paid additional 4¢ per dozen above announced prices paid producers to cover operating costs. Program will start December 1 and will continue as long as necessary in 1943. In addition, 100 case lot program will be operated from December 1 to June 30, 1943.

FARM LABOR: Determination of what constitutes "essential" and "necessary" agricultural occupations or endeavors under the Tydings amendment to the Selective Service Act is now underway in Department here and should be ready within next week or so. Tydings amendment would defer Selective Service registrants engaged in "essential" agricultural occupations so long as they remained so employed. Pending issue of determination of "essential" workers by USDA, local Selective Service Boards have been instructed to confer with local War Boards on agricultural registrants. While details of "essential" farm occupation list not available yet, it is known that the determination will be based upon "war units". A "war unit" is the amount of labor it takes to milk one cow. Different crops will count so much on "war units" and to qualify as essential farm workers must be engaged in farm work equivalent to 16 "war units". Agricultural workers who are deferred will be placed in classes 2-C or 3-C. They will not lose deferrment if they change from one "necessary" farm job to another, but will be put in 1-A immediately if they shift to industrial employment without permit from local draft boards.

TRAINING PROGRAM to provide semi-skilled dairy labor, announced by Secretary Wickard last week-end, will be extended to other areas and possibly other crops if it proves successful. Under experimental program, farm workers from counties in Kentucky are being taken to Ohio State University, given training in dairying and then will be located on Ohio dairy farms. Program is Government financed. Employers will pay only \$10 for new workers to cover part cost of transportation, but must furnish living quarters approved by FSA.

HOGS: Upward revision of 1943 hog goals (15% over 1942 instead of 10%) is now being broken down to state figures. Individual state goals will be announced at Denver regional conference on 1943 food goals. Indications are that major producing states will be asked for full upward revision, except in those cases where peak production limits have been reached.

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